

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 87KABUL 000641

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

••• TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
••• AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
••• SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6330
••• INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE
••• USIA WASHDC 1648
••• AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
••• AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
••• USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
••• FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
••• CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
••• CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
••• HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
••• HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
••• USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
••• USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
••• DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
••• RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB BA//IN//
••• USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
••• ESTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO-CMI//
••• C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 KABUL 0641
••• MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO;
••• DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MS. MILLIKAN; THE HAGUE FOR
••• A-DAM AND R-DAM
••• E.O. 12356: DECL 4/13/93
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TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, MCAPN IHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, SREK, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 6, 1987 -
APRIL 12, 1987

REF: ;KABUL 0593 ✓

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Cum*

DATE *10/23/89*

(X) ~~REFRASE~~ ~~DECLASSIFY~~
() ~~EXCISE~~ () ~~DECLASSIFY in PART~~
() ~~DENY~~ () ~~Non-responsive info.~~

FOI, EO or PA exceptions

EO authority to:

() ~~CLASSIFY as~~ OADR
() ~~DOWNGRADE TS to~~ () S or () C, OADR

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BRIEFED TO JOURNALISTS EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED. (NOTE TO BRIEFERS IN ISLAMABAD, PESHAWAR AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING ON SUMMARIES AND SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM PARAS 4 AND 5.)

3. SUMMARY:

(A) (FOR PRESS BRIEFING:) INTENSIFIED FIGHTING WAS REPORTED IN VARIOUS PROVINCES INCLUDING SOVIET/DRA ATTACKS IN THE SHOMALI. REPORTS OF THE EXTENSIVENESS OF SOVIET REPRISAL RAIDS IN KUNDUZ AND TAKHAR FOLLOWING MUJAHIDIN RAIDS INTO SOVIET TERRITORY IN MARCH CONTINUE TO REACH KABUL, SUGGESTING SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF CIVILIAN LIFE AND PROPERTY (SEE REFTEL, ALSO). AN AVALANCHE REPORTEDLY WIPED OUT A 70-MAN SOVIET BASE IN BAGHLAN. AVALANCHE AND REPORTS OF FIGHTING MAY HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE OF A THREE-DAY CLOSURE OF THE SALANG ROAD DURING THE WEEK. THERE ARE REPORTS OF UNREST IN KANDAHAR AND RESULTING LOSS OF LIFE. RECENT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN NORTHERN AFGHAN PROVINCES AND SOVIET CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS WHICH BYPASS KABUL APPEAR TO SUGGEST SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO PUSH THESE PROVINCES BORDERING THE SOVIET UNION TOWARD GREATER AUTONOMY FROM KABUL AND CLOSER TIES TO THESE SOVIET REPUBLICS. THERE ARE RUMORS OF
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PENDING REGIME SHAKEUPS AND REPORTS THAT THE KHALQI FACTION HAS PRESENTED NEW DEMANDS FOR GREATER POWER. THE AFGHANI CONTINUES ITS INFLATIONARY SPIRAL, ON APRIL 12 REACHING 165 FOR ONE U.S. DOLLAR. FINALLY, A DIPLOMAT WITNESSED THE AFTERMATH OF A SHOOTING INCIDENT INVOLVING APPARENTLY SOVIET PERSONNEL IN DOWNTOWN KABUL ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

(B) (NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:) KABUL HAS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO BEGIN PASSENGER AND TRANSPORT SERVICE TO KUWAIT PENDING THE RESULTS OF DISCUSSION WITH KUWAITI AUTHORITIES. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SYRIA AND THE DRA MAY SOON AGREE TO THE EXCHANGE OF EMBASSIES. END SUMMARY.

4. KABUL PYROTECHNICS: MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITY IN KABUL SLACKENED SOMEWHAT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS WEEKS LEVEL BUT STILL REMAINED HIGHER THAN NORMAL FOR THIS SEASON. A DIPLOMAT WITNESSED THE AFTERMATH OF AN APPARENT SHOOTING OF A SOVIET ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 12 IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

-- APRIL 4/5: DIPLOMATS HEARD MACHINEGUN FIRE IN THE SHARE NAU AREA AT 2300. OVERNIGHT, RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT ROCKETS STRUCK DARULAMAN.

-- APRIL 6: AT 0546 DIPLOMATS IN VARIOUS AREAS HEARING A LOUD, DISTINCT EXPLOSION. ONE DIPLOMAT NOTED AT THE SAME TIME A

LARGE CLOUD OF DUST RISING FROM NEAR SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS
FACILITIES ATOP KHO-I-ALIABAD. DIPLOMATS ALSO REPORTED HARING
A 1200 EXPLOSION IN THE CITY.

-- APRIL 7: DIPLOMATS NOTED AN EXPLOSION AT 2211, POSSIBLY
FROM AN INCOMING ROCKET.

-- APRIL 8: DIPLOMATS REPORT SEEING FLASHES TO THE EAST OF
THE CITY AT 2030, POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF ARTILLERY STRICKES
OR BOMBING.

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6331

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

USIA WASHDC 1649

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

INCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

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APRIL 9: AT 0420 A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED AN AREA OF FLAME
NEAR THE SUMMIT OF A RIDGE APPROXIMATELY 13 KMS FROM THE CITY.
(SEE PARA 6 ABOVE, FOR RELATED REPORTS OF MUJAHIDIN
PRESSURE ON A SOVIET BASE IN THE AREA.)

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-- APRIL 10: DIPLOMATS REPORTED A LOUD EXPLOSION IN SHARE NAU
AT 0830. AT 1150 DIPLOMATS IN DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE
CITY HEARD A LOUD EXPLOSION FROM THE VICINITY OF THE AIRPORT
AND THEN NOTED A LARGE PLUME OF DUST AND SMOKE ARISING FROM
THE NORTHWEST END OF THE AIRPORT.

-- APRIL 11: A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS AN EXPLOSION
IN THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE CITY AT 1920 CAUSED BY A ROCKET
FIRED FROM THE KARGHA AREA.

-- APRIL 12: DIPLOMATS OBSERVED THICK BLUE-BLACK SMOKE RISING FROM NORTH OF THE RIDGE TO THE NORTHWEST OF THE AIRPORT (APPROXIMATELY 34'36"N 69'12") BETWEEN 0930 AND 1100. THE SMOKE APPEARED TO BE FROM BURNING FUEL. SHORTLY AFTER THE SMOKE APPEARED, MI-24 HELICOPTERS WERE NOTED CIRCLING THE AREA. AT 1445 A DIPLOMAT SAW A LADA SEDAN RACING WITH FLASHING LIGHTS NORTHWEST ON BLUE MOSQUE STREET. THE LADA, WITH GREEN LICENSE PLATES (INDICATING FOREIGN AID/ADVISORY PERSONNEL) WAS DRIVEN BY A EUROPEAN (PROBABLY SOVIET). SEATED NEXT TO THE DRIVER WAS ANOTHER EUROPEAN OBVIOUSLY IN GREAT DISTRESS CLUTCHING HIS CHEST, WITH HIS HEAD THRUST BACK. IN THE CENTER OF THE PASSENGER SIDE OF OF THE FRONT WINDSHIELD WAS WHAT APPEARED CLEARLY TO BE A BULLET HOLE.

5. MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA:

... (P) (VEHICULAR MOVEMENT): CONVOY ACTIVITY NORTH TO AND FROM KABUL WAS REDUCED SOMEWHAT BY THE CLOSURE OF THE SALANG ROAD FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS (APRIL 4-7) AS A RESULT OF EITHER FIGHTING, AVALANCHES (SEE PARA 6, BAGHLAN, FOR A REPORT OF AN AVALANCHE WHICH REPORTEDLY DESTROYED A LARGE SOVIET BASE ON THE SALANG) OR HEAVY RAINS WHICH WASHED OUT A MAJOR BRIDGE. AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT MAJOR SOVIET
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... ARMOR AND SUPPORT VEHICLE MOVEMENT FROM NORTH TOWARD THE GHAZNI ROAD (AND KANDAHAR) UNDER COVER OF CURFEW HOURS.

... APRIL 3-7: TWO AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT HEAVY MOVEMENT OF APPARENTLY NEW SOVIET ARMOR AND SUPPORT VEHICLES FROM NORTH OF KABUL, THROUGH KARTE PARWAN AND TO THE SILO SECTION (PROBABLY TOWARD THE GHAZNI ROAD) DURING THE 0000-0400 CURFEW HOURS.

... APRIL 6: AT APPROXIMATELY 0530 A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED A SOVIET BATTALION-SIZE BIVOUAC LOCATED OFF PERIMETER ROAD TO THE EAST OF THE SOVIET REHABILITATION CENTER. THE UNIT, WHICH INCLUDED A WIDE RANGE OF ARMOR AND SELF-PROPELLED GUNS, MOVED OUT ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 8 HEADED EAST, PROBABLY TOWARD THE JALALABAD ROAD. AT 0625, 36 TRUCK (VEHICLE UNIT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 1312), ACCOMPANIED BY TRUCK-MOUNTED ZU-23/4 GUNS, WERE OBSERVED HEADED WEST ON PERIMETER ROAD.

-- APRIL 7: A DIPLOMAT, AT 1545, OBSERVED A SOVIET CONVOY MOVING NORTH TO SOUTH TOWARD SILO ROAD (AND POSSIBLY TO THE GHAZNI ROAD). IT CONTAINED APPROXIMATELY 65 TRUCKS AND 15 ARMORED VEHICLES.

-- APRIL 8: A DIPLOMAT REPORTS SEEING APPROXIMATELY 80 AMMO BEARING TRUCKS ACCOMPANIED BY ARMORED VEHICLES. THE SOVIET COLUMN MOVED IN THE DIRECTION OF GHAZNI ROAD AT 0645. AT 0710 A SOVIET CONVOY OF FUEL TANKERS

(UNIT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 145). ESCORTED BY BTR'S. WAS STAGED NORTHWARD AT THE INTERSECTION OF SALANG AND PERIMETER ROADS. AT 0720 A SOVIET COLUMN WHICH INCLUDED 23 TRUCKS, FOUR SELF PROPELLED GUNS, SIX TOWED D-30 GUNS AND 18 BTR'S AND BMP'S, WAS STAGED EASTWARD (TOWARD THE JALALABAD ROAD) ON PERIMETER ROAD. AT 1230, 30 ARMORED VEHICLES AND TRUCKS MOVED NORTH TO SOUTH THROUGH NORTHWESTERN KABUL.

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AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

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-- APRIL 9: AT 0540 SEVEN DRA MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER

TRUCKS WERE OBSERVED PARKED NEAR THE SOVIET MILITARY HOSPITAL.

APRIL 10: AT 1037 FORTY-FOUR FUEL TANKERS, ESCORTED BY

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TRUCK-MOUNTED ZSU 23/4 GUNS MOVED EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD. AT 1805 A SOVIET CONVOY, CONSISTING OF 20 BTR'S (MOSTLY BTR 70'S), SEVERAL TRUCKS AND TRUCK-MOUNTED ZU-23 GUNS, MOVED NORTH INTO KABUL FROM THE SILO ROAD. AT 2015 THREE LARGE SOVIET MILITARY AMBULANCES MOVED SLOWLY TOWARD THE AIRPORT.

-- APRIL 11: AT 0545 A LARGE SOVIET CONVOY CONSISTING OF 95 TRUCKS, TWO TANKS, FIVE AMBULANCES AND FOUR ZU-23 GUNS, MOVED SOUTH TO NORTH THROUGH NORTHWESTERN KABUL. AT 1700

TEN BTR'S AND THREE TRUCKS WERE OBSERVED MOVING WEST ON PERIMETER ROAD.

-- APRIL 12: A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED 11 DRA CANVAS-COVERED TRUCK-MOUNTED ROCKETS, APPARENTLY SA-2'S ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR JEEPS WITH TROOPS, THE LEED JEEP COMPLETE WITH HOLDING FURLED FLAG, MOVING EAST ON BLUE MOSQUE STREET. (THE EQUIPMENT APPEARED TO BE PART OF THE PREPARATION FOR SAURREVOLUTION DAY, APRIL 27.)

(B) (-84): NIGHTTIME AIR ACTIVITY WAS NOTED DURING THE WEEK, INCLUDING DEPARTURE OF HELICOPTER FORMATIONS. REPORTED IL-76 ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES WERE DOWN FROM 24 THE PREVIOUS WEEK TO 17 THIS WEEK.

APRIL 6: TWO IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED. AT 1429 TEN MI-24'S AND MI-8'S DEPARTED KABUL AIRPORT HEADING EAST/NORTHEAST. AT 1433 SIX MI-8'S HEADED EAST.

APRIL 7: TWO IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED.

-- APRIL 8: BETWEEN 2000 AND 2100 FOUR FORMATIONS OF HELICOPTERS LEFT KABUL AIRPORT. ONE LEFT IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION OVER THE CITY, ANOTHER HEADED SOUTHEAST. THE
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MATTER TWO APPEARED TO HEAD EAST AND/OR NORTHEAST. FIXED WING AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES WERE ALSO NOTED THROUGHOUT THE EVENING.

APRIL 9: FOUR IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED.

APRIL 10: FOUR IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED. DIPLOMATS NOTED FIXED WING AND HELICOPTER ACTIVITY OVERNIGHT.

APRIL 11: FOUR IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED.

APRIL 12: ONE IL-76 ARRIVED/DEPARTED. AT APPROXIMATELY 0700 SIX DRA MIG-21 JET FIGHTERS FLEW AT LOW ALTITUDE OVER THE CITY SOUTH TO NORTH. THE FLYOVER APPEARED TO BE PRACTICE FOR CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE "SAUR REVOLUTION" (APRIL 27). AT 0610 EIGHT MI-8'S AND 2 MI-24'S DEPARTED THE AIRPORT HEADED WEST IN LOW LEVEL FORMATION.

-- COMBAT IN THE PROVINCES --

6. KABUL PROVINCE (CITY DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED PARA 4):

(A) (NORTHERN KABUL:) A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT EARLY IN THE WEEK, SOVIET/DRA AIRCRAFT CONDUCTED HEAVY BOMBING/STRAFING IN THE AREA OF ISTALIF, KARIZ MIR, SHAKA DARA AND GOLDARA. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AIR ASSAULTS,

DRA AND SOVIET FORCES MADE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES SEEKING MUJAHIDIN OR SUPPLIES.

(B) (SOUTHERN KABUL:) A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE CLAIMS THAT MUJAHIDIN DOWNED A DRA MI-24 WHILE IT WAS IN LOW LEVEL FLIGHT IN THE LALANDAR AREA SOUTHWEST OF KABUL. A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT OVER THE PAST TEN DAYS A SOVIET BASE AT YAKHDARA (34'26"N 69'16"E) HAS BEEN UNDER INTENSE MUJAHIDIN PRESSURE. IN RECENT EVENING OBSERVATIONS DIPLOMATS HAVE NOTED ARTILLERY FIRE FROM THIS BASE AND HEAVY FLARE
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ACTIVITY. AT 0820, APRIL 12, A DIPLOMAT NOTED MI-24'S HUNTING IN THE AREA AND DIVING AS IF STAGING ATTACKS.

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7. KUNDUZ:

AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC REPORTS CONTINUE TO COME IN REVEALING
VERY EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY SOVIET FORCES IN THE
AREA OF NORTHERN KUNDUZ FOLLOWING THE MARCH 8 MUJAHIDIN
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ATTACK INTO SOVIET TERRITORY (REFTEL). A RELIABLE
DEIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT SOVIET AIR AND GROUND FORCES
CONDUCTED HEAVY BOMBING RAIDS AGAINST VILLAGES IN THE
VICINITY OF KUNDUZ (CAPITAL OF THE PROVINCE). THE ATTACKS
REPORTEDLY HAVE CREATED DEEP RESENTMENT TOWARDS THE
SOVIETS AND THE DRA AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. A REPORT
FROM A DIPLOMAT OF UNKNOWN REPORTING RELIABILITY CLAIMS THAT
APPROXIMATELY 3,000 SOVIET TROOPS WERE ENGAGED IN THE
REPRISALS IN KUNDUZ (AND TAKHAR).

8. BALKH: A VERY RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN, IN AN EARLY-APRIL ATTACK, HAVE SEVERED THE GAS PIPELINE RUNNING FROM THE MAZAR-I-SHARIF AREA TO THE SOVIET BORDER.

9. PAKTIA:

AFGHAN AND WELL-PLACED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORT VERY HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUING IN THE AREA OF GARDEZ AND KHOST WITH NIGHTLY ROCKETING OF GARDEZ AND ITS ENVIRONS BY MUJAHIDIN. AT KANDK-I-KAOMI (BETWEEN KHOST AND SAMKANI) IN EARLY APRIL, THERE WAS DAYLONG FIGHTING AT A DRA BASE WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF APPROXIMATELY 200 DRA KILLED AND APPROXIMATELY TEN MUJAHIDIN KILLED OR WOUNDED. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT AT KARAM IN PAKTIA, MARCH 29, A TIME BOMB PLACED IN A DRA POST KILLED 1 AND WOUNDED THREE DRA TROOPS.

10. GHAZNI:

AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORT HEAVY FIGHTING IN GHAZNI. AT BANDI SAREI (TEN KMS WEST OF GHAZNI CITY). ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN ON MARCH 31 DESTROYED A SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLE AND A JEEP KILLING 12 SOVIET TROOPS. EARLIER, ON MARCH 21, AT KHOZ MAII, THREE KMS WEST OF CONFIDENTIAL
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GHAZNI, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A SOVIET JEEP KILLING FOUR SOVIET TROOPS. ON APRIL 2, ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN KILLED FIVE DRA SOLDIERS AT HAKIM SAHIB AIRAT SHRINE. ONE MUJAHED WAS KILLED IN THE FIGHTING.

11. TAKHAR:

A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT IN MARCH IN THE VICINITY OF KHWAJA-I-GHAR (37°04'N 69°25'E) SOVIETS BLOCKED ROADS TO PREVENT CIVILIANS FROM ESCAPING VERY INTENSE BOMBING CONDUCTED AS REPRISAL FOR MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS INTO SOVIET TERRITORY.

12. KANDAHAR:

ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC REPORT, ON APRIL 2 FIGHTING ERUPTED IN KANDAHAR AS LOCAL CITIZENS REJECTED FOOD AND OTHER AID GOODS PROVIDED BY THE SOVIETS. IN THE FIGHTING, 14 DRA SOLDIERS AND ONE OFFICER WERE KILLED AND ONE HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN. A SEPARATE REPORT FROM AN AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT IN KANDAHAR HOSPITALS ARE VASTLY OVERCROWDED WITH WOUNDED TROOPS FROM KANDAHAR AND SHINDAND, NECESSITATING TRANSFER OF MANY PATIENTS TO KABUL.

13. LAGHMAN:

A DIPLOMAT WITH AN EXCELLENT TRACK RECORD FOR REPORTING RELIABILITY STATES THAT ON APRIL 2 A MUJAHIDIN CLASH WITH

SOVIET/DRA TROOPS AT ALISHAING (34'47"N 70'06"E) LEFT 30
SOVIET AND DRA TROOPS KILLED. SOVIET FORCES RETALIATED
WITH REPRISAL AERIAL BOMBARDMENTS THAT CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION
OF CIVILIAN HOMES IN THE AREA. EARLIER, AT GHUANDI (34'13"N
70'02"E) ON MARCH 27, ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, THERE WAS
A SERIOUS MUJAHIDIN/DRA CLASH IN WHICH 14 DRA TROOPS WERE
EITHER KILLED OR WOUNDED.

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAFE AMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IDM//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
BUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//INC//
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO-CMI//

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14. BAGHLAN:

A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS THAT DURING THE FIRST
WEEK OF APRIL, A MASSIVE SNOW AVALANCHE DESTROYED A 70-MAN
SOVIET POST NEAR KHENJAN (35'36"N 68'54"E) ON THE SALANG
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ROAD NORTH OF THE SALANG TUNNEL. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT,
ALL SOVIETS MANNING THE BASE WERE KILLED. SOVIET FORCES IN THE
AREA HAD BEEN USING ARTILLERY TO CLEAR AWAY SNOW FROM THE
ROAD AND MAY HAVE ACCIDENTLY TRIGGERED THE AVALANCHE. (THIS
REPORT WAS INCLUDED IN SUPPLEMENT TO LAST SITREP WHICH WAS
ONLY DISTRIBUTED TO A FEW ADDRESSEES.) A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT
REPORTS THAT ON APRIL 8 TWO JET FIGHTERS AND ONE HELICOPTER
WERE SHOT DOWN IN THE PROVINCE.

15. TAKHAR:

A DIPLOMAT WITH AN UNESTABLISHED REPORTING TRACK RECORD CLAIMS THAT IN THE COURSE OF THREE DAYS OF FIGHTING, BEGINNING MARCH 23 IN THE TALOQAN AREA (36'44N 69'33E) ONE SOVIET PLANE WAS DOWNED AND ONE TANK DESTROYED, ALONG WITH SEVERAL ARMORED PERSONAL CARRIERS. THE DRA SUFFERED 20 DEAD WHILE THE MUJAHIDIN LOST 7 KILLED AND 11 WOUNDED.

16. BADGHIS:

IN MID-MARCH, ACCORDING TO A DIPLOMAT OF UNTESTED REPORTING RELIABILITY, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED SOVIET AND DRA POSTS WITH ANTI-TANK ROCKETS, DESTROYING 6 TANKS AND OTHER MILITARY VEHICLES. TEN SOVIET/DRA TROOPS WERE KILLED IN THE CLASHES.

17. WARDAK:

IN THE MAIDAN SHAHR AREA, A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS, MUJAHIDIN OVERRAN TWO DRA POSTS ON APRIL 8.

18. LOGAR:

NUMEROUS AFGHAN SOURCES CONTINUE TO REPORT CHRONIC FIGHTING
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IN LOGAR (AS NOTED REFTEL).

19. PARWAN: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT ON APRIL 7 MASOOD LAUNCHED AN ATTACK NORTH OF THE SALANG TUNNEL AND CAPTURED A LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET TROOPS. HE ALSO INFLECTED HEAVY MATERIALE LOSSES ON THE SOVIETS, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT.

20. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (ESTIMATES OF OPPOSING FORCE STRENGTHS:) A SOURCE WITH GOOD ACCESS TO SOVIET INFORMATION CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIETS ESTIMATE MUJAHIDIN STRENGTH INSIDE AFGHANISTAN AT 70-80,000. THE SAME SOURCE HIMSELF ESTIMATES THAT DRA TROOP STRENGTH IS ONLY 40,000 AND THAT ONE HALF OF THESE WOULD "GO OVER" IN THE EVENT OF A FULL SOVIET WITHDRAWAL.

(B) (DRA DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY NEAR KABUL:) A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE STATEY THAT THE DRA IS ESTABLISHING MANY NEW LIGHTLY MANNED POSTS (8-12 TROOPS) IN THE LALANDAR AREA (SOUTH OF KABUL) AND IN PAGHMAN.

(C) (POOR FOOD AND DRA TROOP MORALE:) A SARANDOI SOLDIER HAS COMPLAINED THAT FOOD QUALITY FOR TROOPS, INCLUDING EVEN THOSE IN THE KABUL AREA, HAS DETERIORATED RECENTLY, EXACERBATING MORALE PROBLEMS. MEAT PROVIDED TROOPS IS OFTEN SPOILED

AND RICE TENDS TO BE POOR QUALITY IMPORTS.

(D) (BTR-80 MOUNTED WITH NEW EQUIPMENT:) A DIPLOMAT HAS NOTED A BTR-80 WITH A MEDIUM MACHINE GUN MOUNTED BEHIND THE TURRET STANDING ABOUT ONE METER HIGH, AND POINTING TO THE REAR.

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	OIC-02	AF-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01	IO-19	NSCE-00
	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01
	OMB-01	INRE-00	RP-10	ACDA-12	SP-02	SR-06	SNP-01
	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	P-02	/105 W	

-----241311 130736Z /10

O 130630Z APR 87
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6335
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE
USIA WASHDC 1653
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
BT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
CENCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
DUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//I//
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FETC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO-CMI//
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2. SOVIETIZATION:

(A) (BORDER AGREEMENTS:) A VERY RELIABLE DIPLOMAT HAS OBSERVED
THAT RECENT AGREEMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE PROVIDE FOR TIES BETWEEN
SOVIET CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS AND AFGHAN PROVINCES NORTH OF
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THE HINDU KUSH WHICH BY-PASS KABUL AND MOSCOW. THE DIRECT
CROSS-BORDER TIES IMPLY AN AUTONOMOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE NORTHERN AFGHAN PROVINCES AND THE CENTRAL AFGHAN
REGIME AND A TIGHTENING RELATIONSHIP TO THE SOVIET REPUBLICS.

(B) (SOVIET EMBASSY EXPANSION:) A RELIABLE DEIPLOMATIC SOURCE
CLAIMS THAT SINCE MID-1986 (COINCIDENT WITH THE ARRIVAL OF
A NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR). THE SOVIET MISSION HAS GROWN BY 30
PERCENT. ONE THEORY HOLDS THAT THE DISINTEGRATION OF PARTY AND

REGIME LOYALTY FOLLOWING GENERAL SECRETARY NAJIB'S OUSTER OF BABRAK KARMAL PLACED GREATER RESPONSIBILITY ON SOVIET ADVISORS.

(C) (SOVIET TROOPS SHAKEDOWN TRAVELLERS:) SEVERAL DIPLOMATS AND ONE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORT THAT AT THE END OF MARCH OR IN EARLY APRIL, GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE TRUCK DRIVERS PETITIONED THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF SOVIET TROOPS IN PARWAN PROVINCE WHO PREYED ON AFGHAN TRAVELLERS ALONG THE SALANG ROAD, DEMANDING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 1,000 AFGHANIS PER VEHICLE. THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT WAS UNABLE TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM THROUGH CONTACTS WITH THE PARWAN GOVERNOR AND REPORTEDLY HAS TAKEN THE PROBLEM TO PRIME MINISTER KESHTMAND.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (GASOLINE SHORTAGES:) DURING APRIL 6-8, GASOLINE SUPPLIES DISAPPEARED, RESULTING IN THE SWIFT FORMATION OF MASSIVE GASOLINE LINES AND REFUSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY TO MEET FOREIGN MISSION REQUESTS FOR STOCKS. THE SHORTAGE WAS VARIOUSLY BLAMED ON FIGHTING NEAR THE SALANG TUNNEL, HIGHWAY BLOCKING AVALANCHES AND HEAVY RAINS WHICH WASHED OUT LARGE BRIDGES.

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(B) (KEROSENE AND SUGAR SHORTAGES:) AFGHAN SOURCES NOTE DEVELOPING SHORTAGES FOR SUGAR, AND KEROSENE. SUGAR IN JALALABAD REPORTEDLY NOW COSTS 2100 AFGHANIS PER SEVEN KGS.

(C) (INFLATION OF THE AFGHANI:) THE AFGHANI CONTINUES TO SUFFER RAPID INFLATION, REACHING 165 TO ONE U.S. DOLLAR ON APRIL 12. THERE IS SPECULATION AMONG DIPLOMATS THAT THE RATE MAY REACH 200 PER ONE DOLLAR SOON, REFLECTING THE GROWING AMOUNT OF IMPORTS WHICH MUST BE PAID FOR BY RESORT TO THE CURRENCY EXCHANGE MARKETS IN THE BAZAARS. (COMMENT: WE HAVE NOTED PREVIOUSLY THE DRA DECISION APPARENTLY TO ALLOW IMPORT OF SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF PAKISTANI GRAINS. DRA TROOPS, AS NOTED ABOVE, HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF IMPORTED RICE. W END COMMENT)

23. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (MORE RUMORS OF REGIME CHANGES:) THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED AFGHAN REPORTS THAT THE MINISTER OF FINANCE WILL BE REMOVED. A WELL-SOURCED DIPLOMATIC REPORT CLAIMS THAT THE DRA WILL REPLACE MOST CHIEFS OF INFORMATION MEDIA, INCLUDING BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY AND SEVERAL MAJOR REGIME NEWSPAPERS.

(B) (FURTHER PDPA SPLINTERING:) WELL-SOURCED DIPLOMATIC REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE PARCHAMI FACTION LOYAL TO GENERAL SECRETARY NAJIB IS SPLITTING OVER THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL

RECONCILIATION AND THE IMPACT OF A FULL SOVIET WITHDRAWAL ON THE LIVES AND FORTUNES OF MANY DRA WHO HAVE ACHIEVED GOOD POSITION BASED ON TIES WITH THE SOVIETS.

(C) (NEW KHALQI DEMANDS:) DIPLOMATIC REPORTS INDICATE THAT FOLLOWING PARTIAL REALIZATION OF THEIR DEMANDS (THE RELEASE OF SENIOR KHALQI FIGURES FROM THE PAST), THE KHALQIS ARE NOW DEMANDING AMBASSADORIAL POSTS AND SENIOR POSITIONS WITHIN MINISTRIES (BUT NOT NECESSARILY MINISTER POSITIONS).

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INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00
	OIC-02	AF-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01	IO-19	NSCE-00
	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01
	OMB-01	INRE-00	RP-10	ACDA-12	SP-02	SR-06	SNP-01
	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	P-02	/105 W	

-----241646 130737Z /10

O 130630Z APR 87
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3636
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE
USIA WASHDC 1654
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG G
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
ONMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
DEFENSE IOMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
DUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FETC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO-CMI//
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24. KABUL MEDIA:

(A) (AVIATION ADVANCES CLAIMED:) AN APRIL 8 KABUL NEW TIMES
ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT THE DRA NATIONAL AIRLINE, BAKHTAR,
WILL SOON RECEIVE TWO TU-154 (M) AIRCRAFT FROM THE SOVIET
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UNION TO BE USED FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS. THE SOVIETS WILL
ALSO PROVIDE A YAK AIRCRAFT TO BE USED IN DOMESTIC FLIGHTS. THE
MINISTRY WILL PURCHASE AN ADDITIONAL TWO TWIN OTTER CRAFT FOR
DOMESTIC FLIGHTS AND PLANS EXPANSION OF AIRPORTS AT KABUL, KUNDUZ,
KANDAHAR, KHWAJA GHAR, ASADABAD, MAZAR-I-SHARIF AND HERAT.

(B) "RETURNEES" PRESENTED TO JOURNALISTS: A WEST GERMAN
TELEVISION TEAM VISITING MAZAR-I-SHARIF WAS INTRODUCED TO A
GROUP OF AFGHANS ALLEGED TO BE AMONG THOSE WHO HAD RESPONDED

TO THE REGIME'S NATIONAL RECONCILIATION CALL. UPON INTERVIEWING THE GROUP, IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE "RETURNEES" IN FACT HAD RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN IN 1986, PRIOR TO THE LAUNCHING OF THE REGIME'S NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PROGRAM.

25. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

(A) (DRA AIRLINES TO OPEN ROUTE TO KUWAIT AND WESTERN EUROPE:) THE ARTICLE NOTED IN PARA 24-A ABOVE ALSO CONTAINS AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY "IS PLANNING TO ESTABLISH A NEW AIR ROUTE KABUL-KUWAIT-KABUL FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS AND GOODS IN THE CURRENT YEAR AND FOR RESTORING KABUL-FRANKFURT-KABUL AND KABUL-LONDON-KABUL." THE MINISTRY REPORTEDLY "IS IN CONTACT WITH THE AUTHORITIES OF THESE COUNTRIES AND THESE FLIGHTS ARE EXPECTED IN THE CURRENT YEAR." ELSEWHERE IN THE ARTICLE IT IS NOTED THAT, "AFTER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE AUTHORITIES OF AVIATION OF FRG. THE ENTERPRISE (THE MINISTRY) HAD EIGHT FLIGHTS OF KABUL-FRANKFURT-KABUL AND TRANSPORTED 200 TONS OF GOODS."

.....
(B) (POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF EMBASSIES WITH SYRIA:) WELL-PLACED RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES QUOTE SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS WHO CLAIM THAT SYRIA IS CLOSE TO AGREEING TO AN EXCHANGE OF EMBASSIES WITH THE DRA. THE SYRIANS ALSO APPEAR LIKELY TO
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.....
DRA WOULD LIKE TO HOST AN INTEREST SECTION FOR THE DRA IN RIYADH. THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT RECENTLY CLOSED THE DRA MISSION IN THAT COUNTRY, URGING THE DRA TO SEEK TO SET UP AN INTEREST SECTION. (SEE KABUL 0635, NOTAL.)

.....
(C) (DRA PLANS INTERNATIONAL TRADE GATHERING:) THE DRA, ACTING THROUGH THE DRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WILL CONVENE A GATHERING OF FOREIGN FIRMS AND AFGHAN PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS APRIL 19-20. WE EXPECT THE DRA TO EXPLOIT THE FORUM FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. (SEE KABUL 0628, NOTAL.)

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26. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. EALUM

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